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FARM LABOR

There were 47,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Lake Region (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) during the reference week of April 12-18, 2015. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of $12.43 per hour, up $0.20 from April 2014. This marks the second highest wage rate for the April reference week, $0.25 below the 2012 rate, since estimates began in 1989. The number of hours worked averaged 37.1 for hired workers during the reference week, compared with 36.9 hours in April 2014.

During the reference week of January 11-17, 2015, there were 36,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Lake Region (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.) Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of $12.87 per hour during the January 2015 reference week, up $0.35 from January 2014. This marks the second highest wage rate for the January reference week, $0.12 below the 2012 rate, since estimates began in 1989. The number of hours worked averaged 36.5 for hired workers during the reference week, compared with 36.1 hours in January 2014.

There were 687,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 12-18, 2015, down less than 1 percent from the April 2014 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 549,000 during the week of January 11-17, 2015, up 2 percent from the January 2014 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $12.27 per hour during the April 2015 reference week, up 2 percent from the April 2014 reference week. Field workers received an average of $11.34 per hour, an increase of 3 percent. Livestock workers earned $11.58 per hour, up 2 percent. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $11.42 per hour, was up 3 percent from the 2014 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 39.9 hours during the April 2015 reference week, compared with 40.1 hours worked during the April 2014 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $12.53 per hour during the January 2015 reference week, up 2 percent from the January 2014 reference week. Field workers received an average of $11.40 per hour, up 3 percent, while livestock workers earned $11.69 per hour, up 3 percent from a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $11.52 per hour, was up 3 percent from the January 2014 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 39.2 hours during the January 2015 reference week, compared with 38.9 hours worked during the January 2014 reference week.

Hired Workers and Wage Rates – Lake Region and United States: 2014-2015

[Lake Region includes Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin]

	Lake Region			United States		
	April 2014	January 2015	April 2015	April 2014	January 2015	April 2015
Hired Workers on Farms ..... 1,000 workers	53	36	47	690	549	687
Hours worked by Hired Workers..... hrs/wk	36.9	36.5	37.1	40.1	39.2	39.9
Wage Rate by Work Type[1]						
Field ..... $/hr	11.42	12.50	11.24	11.02	11.40	11.34
Livestock ..... $/hr	11.57	11.86	12.03	11.35	11.69	11.58
Field & Livestock ..... $/hr	11.50	12.00	11.68	11.12	11.52	11.42
All Hired Workers ..... $/hr	12.23	12.87	12.43	12.01	12.53	12.27

[1] Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

CHICKENS & EGGS

Minnesota Egg production during April 2015 was 280 million eggs, down 3 percent from last month, but up 14 percent from last year. The average number of **all layers on hand during April 2015** was 11.6 million, down 1 percent from the March average, but up 9 percent from last year. Eggs per 100 layers for the month of April were 2,408, down 2 percent from March, but up 5 percent from last year.

In April, avian influenza affected a number of Minnesota flocks. Losses resulting from the disease are reflected in these estimates. The June 22nd *Chicken and Egg* report will reflect average inventory for the month of May. Additional information about the current avian influenza situation in the United States is available at www.usda.gov/avian_influenza.html.

United States egg production totaled 8.21 billion during April 2015, up slightly from last year. Production included 7.11 billion table eggs, and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.01 billion were broiler-type and 87 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during April 2015 averaged 358 million, down 1 percent from last year. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,291 eggs, up 1 percent from April 2014.

All layers in the United States on May 1, 2015 totaled 354 million, down 2 percent from last year. The 354 million layers consisted of 296 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 55.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.38 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on May 1, 2015, averaged 75.8 eggs per 100 layers, unchanged from May 1, 2014.

Egg-type chicks hatched during April 2015 totaled 49.6 million, up 9 percent from April 2014. Eggs in incubators totaled 48.0 million on May 1, 2015, up 1 percent from a year ago. Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 219 thousand during April 2015, down 10 percent from April 2014.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during April 2015 totaled 773 million, up 3 percent from April 2014. Eggs in incubators totaled 654 million on May 1, 2015, up 2 percent from a year ago. Leading breeders placed 7.09 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during April 2015, up 6 percent from April 2014

Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced – States and United States: During April 2014 and 2015

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding. Data by type of flock not shown for some states to avoid disclosing individual operations, data included in United States totals.]

State	Table egg layers in flocks 30,000 & above		All layers on hand		Eggs per 100 layers		Total egg production		Table egg production	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 layers)	(eggs)	(eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)	(million eggs)
Alabama	1,470	1,415	9,434	9,551	1,855	1,864	175	178	36	34
Arkansas	3,613	3,719	11,962	13,083	2,006	2,048	240	268	88	95
California	16,335	12,733	16,764	13,226	2,309	2,351	387	311	(D)	(D)
Colorado	4,410	4,172	4,783	4,621	2,530	2,316	121	107	(D)	(D)
Connecticut [1]	2,296	(NA)	2,390	(NA)	2,343	(NA)	56	(NA)	(D)	(NA)
Florida	8,106	8,688	8,488	9,052	2,344	2,254	199	204	194	200
Georgia	9,655	9,785	18,474	18,860	2,127	2,089	393	394	231	225
Illinois	4,414	4,403	4,882	4,862	2,417	2,283	118	111	113	107
Indiana	26,300	25,204	27,258	26,119	2,374	2,324	647	607	630	590
Iowa	58,019	54,876	59,206	56,105	2,297	2,319	1,360	1,301	1,343	1,282
Maine [1]	3,476	(NA)	3,531	(NA)	2,351	(NA)	83	(NA)	(D)	(NA)
Maryland	2,658	2,278	2,829	2,441	2,298	2,376	65	58	64	57
Michigan	12,885	12,457	13,123	12,710	2,484	2,478	326	315	(D)	(D)
Minnesota	**10,258**	**11,175**	**10,696**	**11,629**	**2,291**	**2,408**	**245**	**280**	**240**	**274**
Mississippi	1,530	1,516	5,805	5,738	1,964	2,022	114	116	36	37
Missouri	6,414	6,630	8,681	8,850	2,292	2,316	199	205	(D)	(D)
Nebraska	9,351	9,353	9,459	9,461	2,442	2,473	231	234	231	234
New York	4,655	4,528	5,014	4,889	2,413	2,454	121	120	(D)	(D)
North Carolina	5,744	6,417	13,289	14,162	2,032	2,125	270	301	139	162
Ohio	29,851	30,826	30,717	31,687	2,315	2,345	711	743	(D)	(D)
Oregon	2,178	2,199	2,317	2,338	2,546	2,524	59	59	59	59
Pennsylvania	23,240	23,559	25,114	25,567	2,429	2,542	610	650	583	620
South Carolina	2,993	3,089	4,254	4,417	2,163	2,151	92	95	71	72
South Dakota	2,550	2,518	2,692	2,660	2,192	2,444	59	65	59	65
Texas	14,658	14,845	18,750	18,892	2,229	2,213	418	418	(D)	(D)
Utah	3,944	4,111	3,982	4,149	2,310	2,314	92	96	92	96
Virginia	1,250	1,269	3,048	3,123	2,100	1,921	64	60	32	28
Washington	6,802	6,881	6,967	7,046	2,297	2,455	160	173	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	4,254	4,375	5,027	5,154	2,347	2,328	118	120	(D)	(D)
Other States [2]	12,944	18,928	21,890	28,063	2,156	2,220	472	623	342	488
United States	296,253	291,949	360,826	358,455	2,274	2,291	8,205	8,212	7,160	7,114

(NA) Not available. (D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

[1] Included in Other States in 2015. [2] Includes data for states not published in this table.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMCIAL USE

Pest Management Practices Used on Corn and Potatoes Acreage, 2014

	Minnesota				Program States			
	Corn		Potatoes		Corn [1]		Potatoes [2]	
	% of Area Planted	% of Operations	% of Area Planted	% of Operations	% of Area Planted	% of Operations	% of Area Planted	% of Operations
Avoidance								
Crop or plant variety chosen for specific pest resistance	51	51	32	42	57	54	41	37
Planting locations planned to avoid cross infestation of pests	18	16	87	70	24	22	48	50
Planting or harvesting dates adjusted	13	14	54	46	21	20	43	45
Rotated crops during past 3 years	89	88	100	99	84	84	97	97
Row spacing, plant density, or row directions adjusted	13	14	63	43	19	16	42	42
Monitoring								
Diagnostic laboratory services used for pest detection via soil or plant tissue analysis	12	9	67	52	13	9	69	62
Field mapping data used to assist decisions	24	16	62	50	18	15	28	23
Scouted								
-established process used	27	19	87	72	23	19	60	58
-for pests due to a pest advisory warning	7	5	47	42	9	7	41	38
-for pests due to a pest development model	7	6	34	37	10	8	37	34
-for pests or beneficial organisms-not scouted	6	11	(Z)	3	7	13	1	1
-for pests or beneficial organism by conducting gen. observations while performing routine tasks	25	30	(Z)	1	26	29	11	15
-for pests or beneficial organism by deliberately going to the crop acres or growing areas	69	59	100	96	67	58	88	84
Scouted for diseases	74	64	100	96	80	69	99	98
-by employee	(Z)	(Z)	50	30	1	1	24	17
-by farm supply company or chemical dealer	16	20	7	7	14	15	11	10
-by independent crop consultant or commercial scout	21	20	14	7	16	13	28	26
-by operator, partner, or family member	63	60	30	56	68	71	38	47
Scouted for insects & mites	75	69	100	97	81	70	98	97
-by employee	(Z)	(Z)	57	35	1	1	24	18
-by farm supply company or chemical dealer	18	21	(Z)	1	15	15	11	11
-by independent crop consultant or commercial scout	20	17	14	7	17	14	28	26
-by operator, partner, or family member	62	61	30	57	67	70	37	46
Scouted for weeds	94	89	100	97	92	86	97	96
-by employee	(Z)	(Z)	57	35	1	1	25	18
-by farm supply company or chemical dealer	16	22	(Z)	1	13	14	10	9
-by independent crop consultant or commercial scout	17	15	14	7	15	11	24	23
-by operator, partner, employee, or family member	67	63	30	57	70	73	41	51
Weather data used to assist decisions	64	64	91	75	57	56	89	86
Written or electronic records kept to track pest activity	36	30	80	70	34	29	61	57
Prevention								
Beneficial insect or vertebrate habitat maintained	5	7	29	30	14	13	24	25
Crop residues removed or burned down	5	4	1	5	9	10	14	14
Equipment & implements cleaned after field work to reduce spread of pests	40	41	75	72	35	33	88	82
Field edges, ditches, or fence lines were chopped, sprayed, mowed, plowed, or burned	52	47	88	81	56	50	86	82
Field left fallow previous year to manage insects	0	0	(NA)	(NA)	1	1	(NA)	(NA)
Flamer used to kill weeds	0	0	(Z)	2	1	(Z)	7	7
No-till or minimum till used	38	39	20	20	67	67	29	26
Plowed down crop residue using conventional tillage	47	52	67	74	32	33	70	74
Seed treated for insect or disease control after purchase	16	15	52	46	23	19	77	73
Water management practices used	2	3	6	13	8	5	55	47
Suppression								
Beneficial organisms applied or released	1	(Z)	(Z)	1	1	1	3	4
Biological pesticides applied	8	6	2	7	10	10	15	12
Buffer strips or border rows maintained to isolate organic from non-organic crops	5	5	5	10	8	7	18	16
Floral lures, attractants, repellants, pheromone traps, or biological pest controls used	0	0	(Z)	(Z)	1	(Z)	8	10
Ground covers, mulches, or other physical barriers maintained	34	36	68	55	47	46	62	63
Pesticides with different mechanisms of actions to keep pest from becoming resistant to pesticides	28	20	84	64	32	32	82	76
Scouting data compared to published information to assist decisions	24	17	42	42	24	21	49	45
Trap crop grown to manage insects	1	1	4	8	2	2	1	3

[1] The 15 program states surveyed about corn in the 2014 ARMS were Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin.

[2] The 8 program states surveyed about potatoes in the 2014 ARMS were Colorado, Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Washington, and Wisconsin.

(Z) Less than half the rounding unit. (NA) Not available.

Complete data from the 2014 agricultural chemical use survey are available on the NASS website at http://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide_to_NASS_Surveys/Chemical_Use/

Agricultural Chemical and Fertilizer Use on Corn, 2014

Active Ingredient	Minnesota			Program States [1]		
	Planted Acres Treated (%)	Rate Applied per Year (lbs/acre)	Total Lbs Applied (1,000 lbs)	Planted Acres Treated (%)	Rate Applied per Year (lbs/acre)	Total Lbs Applied (1,000 lbs)
Pesticide Use on Corn						
FUNGICIDE:						
TOTAL FUNGICIDE	(D)		(D)	12		1,162
HERBICIDE:						
Acetochlor	53	0.994	4,227	29	1.256	28,685
Atrazine	23	0.604	1,120	55	1.018	45,231
Clopyralid	31	0.064	158	13	0.072	752
Dicamba, Soduim Salt	6	0.080	40	6	0.092	472
Diflufenzopyr-sodium	6	0.031	15	6	0.036	177
Dimethenamid-P	5	0.609	233	4	0.630	2,130
Flumetsulam	31	0.027	66	13	0.030	315
Glyphosate	11	0.899	799	11	0.907	7,979
Glyphsate DIM. Salt	5	0.891	339	4	1.113	3,604
Glyphosate ISO. Salt	43	0.820	2,817	38	0.889	27,221
Glyphosate POT. Salt	24	1.032	1,970	24	1.159	22,560
Mesotrione	25	0.133	267	27	0.115	2,529
S-Metolachlor	13	1.153	1,241	27	1.106	23,600
Saflufenacil	5	0.060	23	4	0.060	178
Tembotrione	10	0.079	65	6	0.072	336
Topramezone	2	0.014	3	3	0.015	31
TOTAL HERBICIDE	98		13,596	97		176,291
INSECTICIDE:						
TOTAL INSECTICIDE	2		26	13		1,684
Fertilizer Use on Corn						
Nitrogen	94	143	1,091,800	97	144	11,244,700
Phosphate	86	70	491,400	80	64	4,072,000
Potash	80	88	570,200	65	82	4,285,800
Sulfur	51	18	72,500	29	15	345,400

[1] The 15 program states surveyed about corn in the 2014 ARMS were Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin. (D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

Agricultural Chemical and Fertilizer Use on Potatoes, 2014

Active Ingredient	Minnesota			Program States [1]		
	Planted Acres Treated (%)	Rate Applied Per Year (lbs/acre)	Total Lbs Applied (1,000 lbs)	Planted Acres Treated (%)	Rate Applied Per Year (lbs/acre)	Total Lbs Applied (1,000 lbs)
Pesticide Use on Potatoes						
FUNGICIDE:						
Azoxystrobin	80	0.216	7	56	0.155	71
Chlorothalonil	88	4.523	172	70	3.538	2,018
Cyazofamid	53	0.135	3	13	0.153	17
Difenoconazole	65	0.216	6	31	0.158	40
Fluopyram	56	0.086	2	30	0.129	32
Mancozeb	81	7.513	261	61	3.559	1,790
Mandipropamide technical	65	0.216	6	28	0.166	38
Mefenoxam	75	0.519	17	44	0.256	93
Pyraclostrobin	49	0.137	3	23	0.157	30
Pyramethanil	64	0.773	21	34	0.478	134
Triphenyltin hydrox.	45	0.191	4	20	0.256	43
TOTAL FUNGICIDE	91		612	96		6,018
HERBICIDE:						
Glyphosate ISO. Salt	11	0.475	2	11	0.852	81
Metribuzin	70	0.417	13	75	0.443	271
S-Metolachlor	24	1.379	14	18	1.386	201
TOTAL HERBICIDE	91		34	91		1,683
INSECTICIDE:						
Clothianidin	7	0.183	1	4	0.093	3
Dimethoate	24	0.452	5	4	0.528	15
Esfenvalerate	45	0.056	1	13	0.073	8
Thiamethoxam	74	0.179	6	27	0.097	22
TOTAL INSECTICIDE	93		13	89		892
OTHER CHEMICALS:						
Diquat dibromide	49	0.589	12	37	0.564	170
TOTAL OTHER CHEMICALS	52		4,067	67		69,474
Fertilizer Use on Potatoes						
Nitrogen	100	144	6,200	99	205	166,100
Phosphate	88	73	2,800	97	129	102,700
Potash	80	171	5,900	90	149	109,800
Sulfur	66	33	900	79	64	42,000

[1] The 8 program states surveyed about potatoes in the 2014 ARMS were Colorado, Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Washington, and Wisconsin.